




A. Timofeevsky
Bogorodsk
wooden toys





This happened a long time ago, maybe two hundred years ago, or maybe even earlier, in the village of Bogorodskoye, which is located near Moscow.

In Russia the winter nights are long and it gets dark early outside. In the evenings, children find it boring to be inside the peasant hut. One day a mother wanted to entertain her children. She decided to give the kids a toy. There was no way she could buy one, as she had no money. Then the mother began to reflect, she thought for a long time...

If she wove a toy out of straw, the children will quickly tear the toy apart. And if she made a toy out of dough, then that toy will quickly dry out and crack. So, then she took a wooden log that was lying behind the stove. She used an axe and a knife to carve a wooden doll out of that log. The children were very happy with the new toy. The children put the wooden doll to bed and sang: "Au, au." And the children named this toy Auka. In due course the children grew up and forgot all about their toy Auka. One day, the mother was getting ready to go to the bazaar when she saw the old toy lying. She thought. Maybe I could take the old toy with me to the bazaar? Maybe someone might buy this old wooden doll? She took that wooden toy to the bazaar and sold it.


And soon a cart appeared driving through her village. The man sitting in a cart was shouting: "Who sold this wooden toy at the bazaar?"




"I sold it," says the peasant woman. "Why do you need this information?"

"Maybe you can make more toys like these? I'll buy them all!"

"Good! Please come back this weekend."

The peasant woman made several toys and ran around the village telling everyone about her stroke of good luck. She began to show her skills to her neighbors. The villagers asked her many questions. What is this for? How did you do that? And following her instructions, the neighbors began making various kinds of toys and sold them to merchants. The merchants in turn, resold those toys at different fairs. In this way wooden toy ladies, hussars, blacksmiths and bears, horses and cows, cockerels and hens began travelling all over Russia...







Time passed...



In the village of Bogorodskoye, craftsmen learned to make toys that could move. In this the child pulled two thin pieces of wood, which brought the toy to life and it began to move.

"Knock-knock." This is the sound made by wooden blacksmiths - a man and a bear - banging a wooden hammer on a wooden anvil. The wooden soldiers either line up in rows or stretch out in one line. The craftsmen also came up with other clever toys. A few chickens stand on the circular board. When a child pulls a string, the wooden chickens bend down and peck grains. In another toy two goats stand on a piece of wood. When a small button is pressed, the two goats butt each other.



Nowadays, modern, factory-made wooden toys have made inroads. There is a wooden hare that regulates street traffic. Wooden bears ride scooters, play football, and even launch a satellite around the moon. Bogorodsk wooden toys are made not only for children's entertainment, but also for home decoration and comfort. People's attitude towards craftsmen has changed today. Nowadays, craftsmen are respected and cared for. The master carvers who work in the village of Bogorodskoye are now honored. After all they are real artists. Although, one can ask what is so difficult about their craft? Because everything they do seems so simple.

The master carver takes a wooden log. First, the carver marks the log where the specific part of the toy will be. Then the master will cut out round ears and a short nose in the upper part of the log. He will make a belly in the middle of the toy, and cut out thick bear paws at the bottom. Using a sharp cutter, the carver will cut out the fur of the wooden animal. What a wonderful bear this will turn out to be! Just alive.



What's the secret? The secret lies in the skillful hands of the master, in his keen artist's eyes. Nothing escapes the gaze of his eyes. The master will vigilantly notice everything and transfer the observation into his work. He will soon turn an ordinary wooden block into a fairy-tale toy. That is why even today people appreciate the joyful, kind art of the masters from the village of Bogorodskoye.



Lion

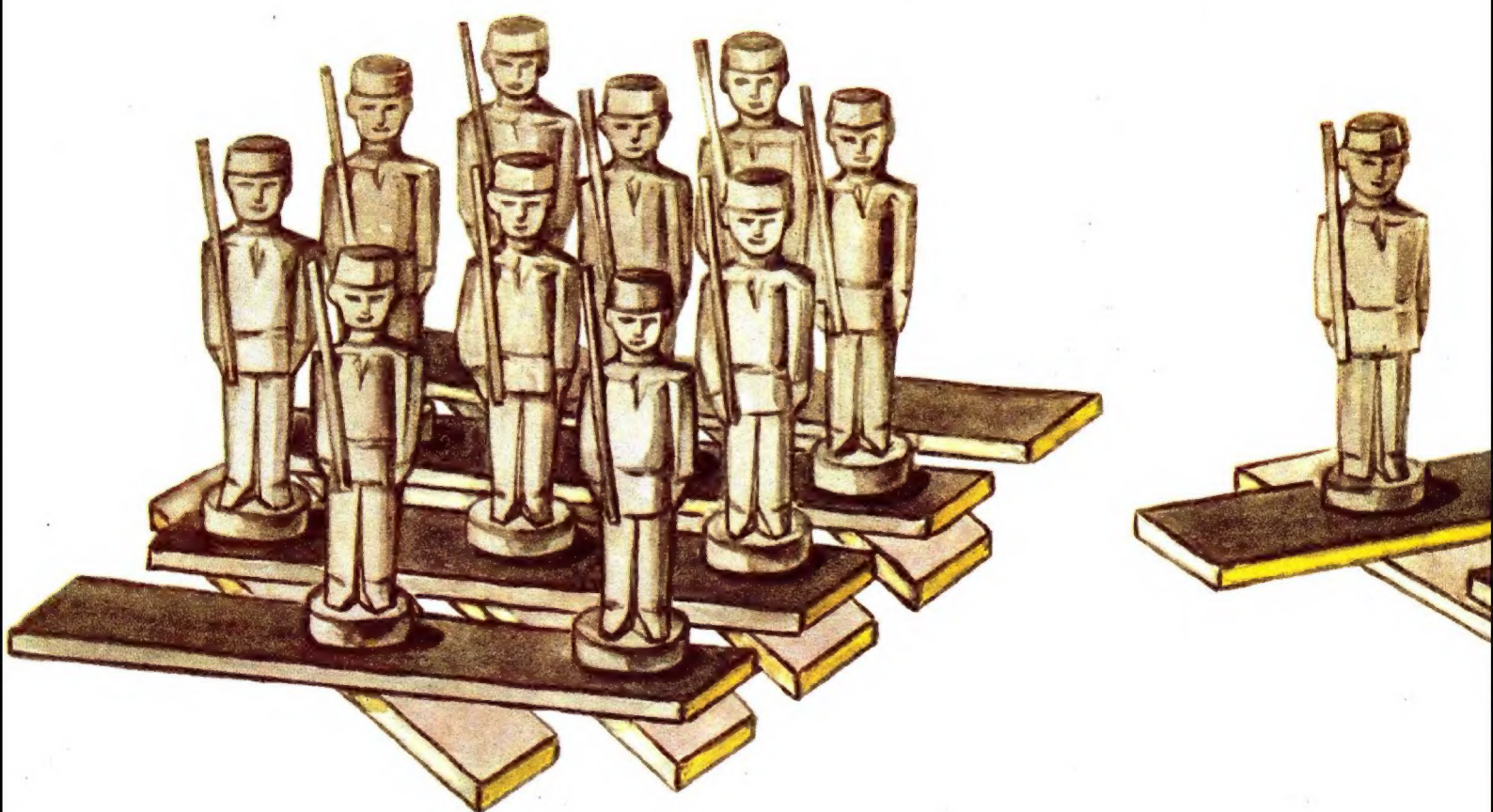




Lady and Hussar

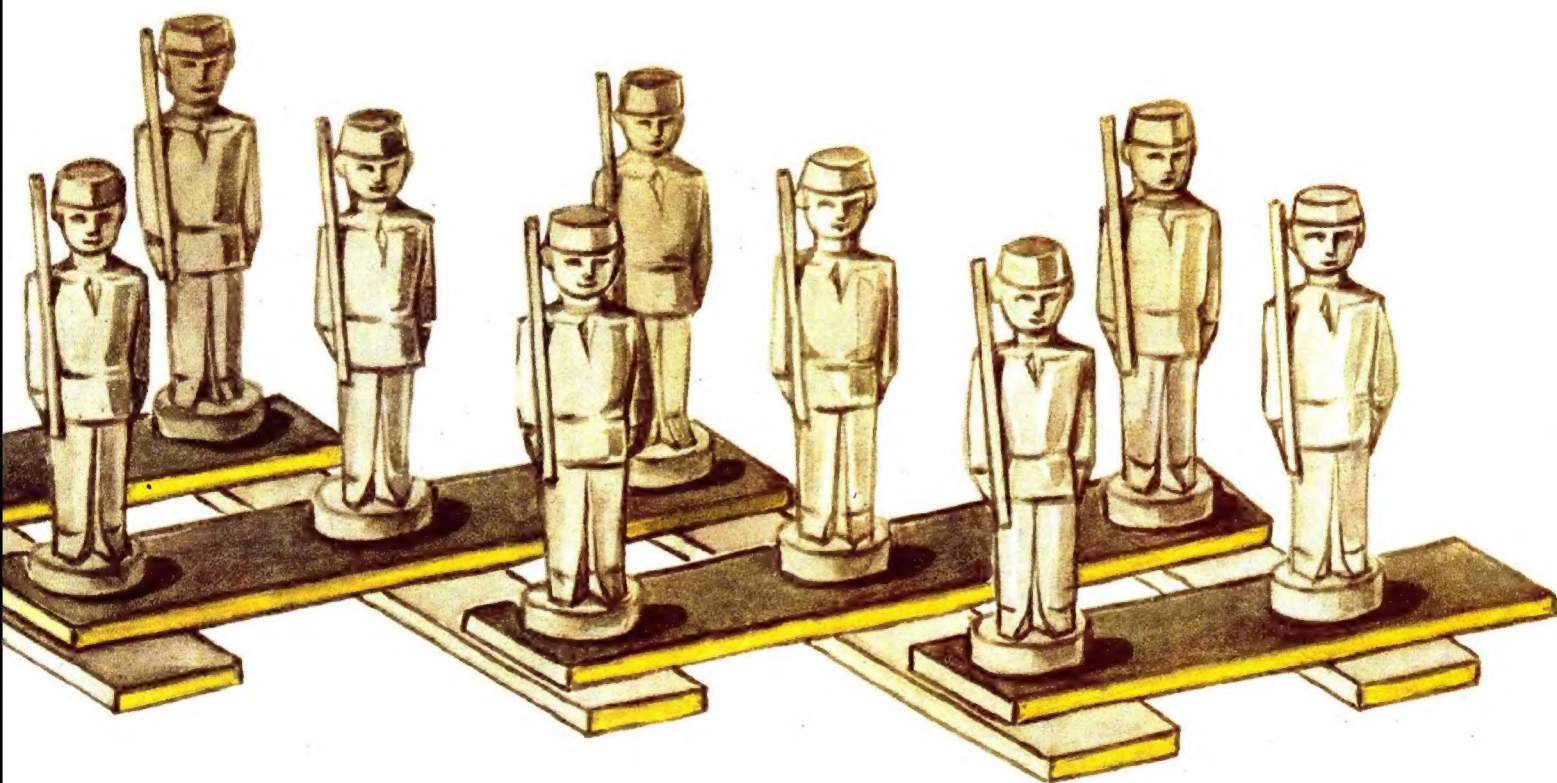


Dancing Peasant



Soldiers on





the parade ground





Woman Spinner





Chickens in a circle





Fisherman



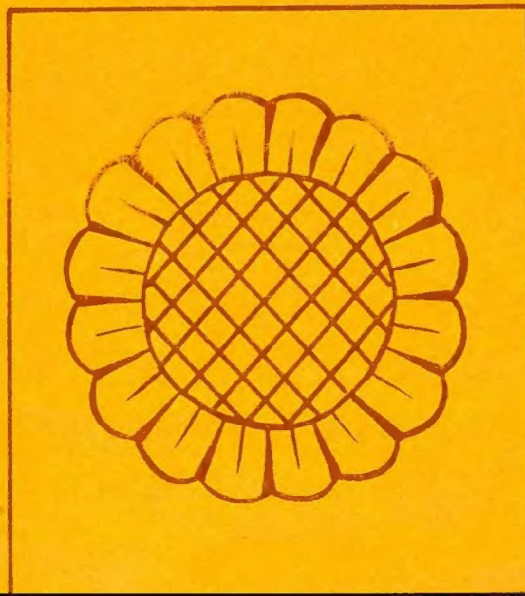
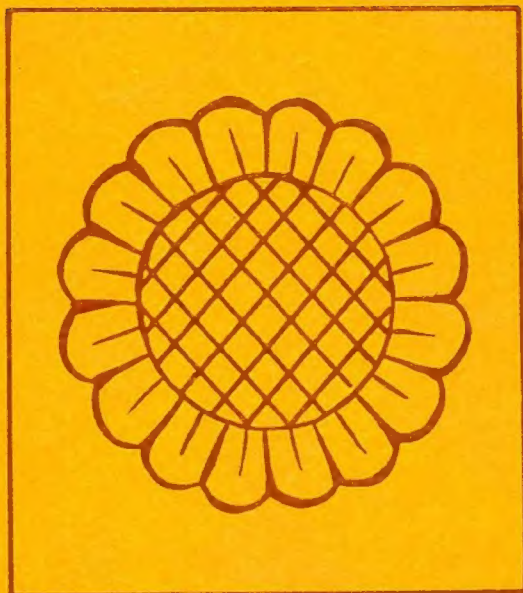
Bears playing football



Hare traffic controller

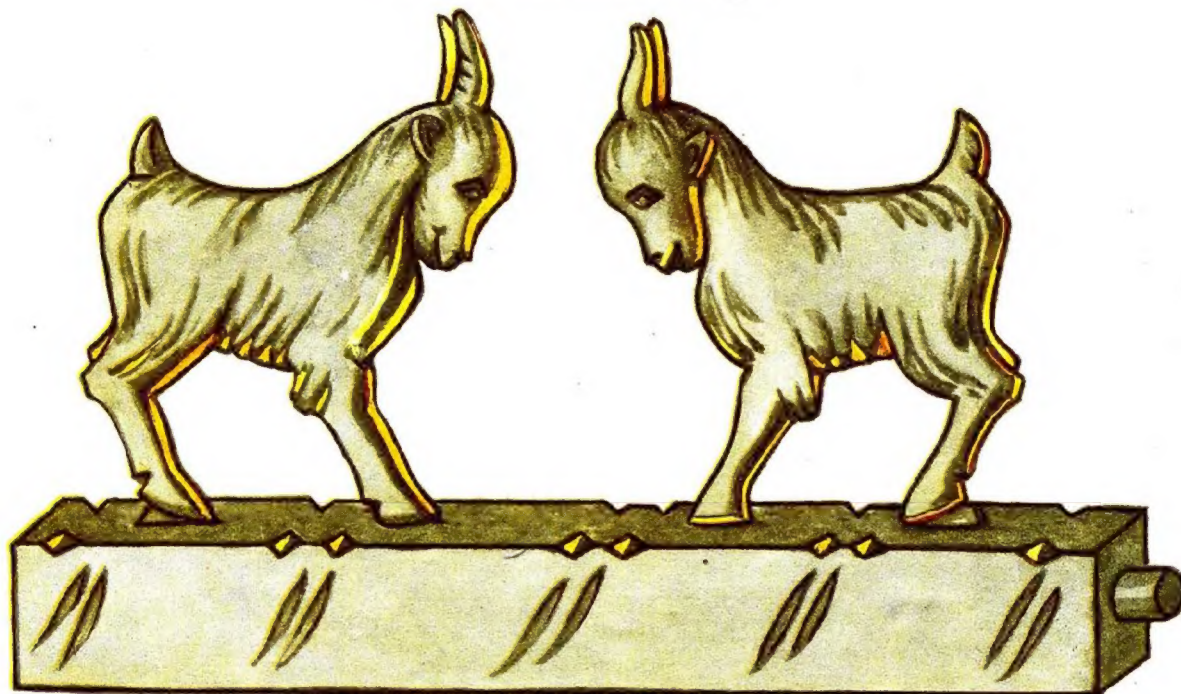


Round the Moon





Goats on the bridge



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